Accident of G.T. Express

1069. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether enquiry into the causes of Rail accident involving Chennai-New Delhi G.T. Express ramming into goods train in Jhansi division on July 16, 1999 has been completed.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the interim findings into the mishap and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The inquiry into this accident was conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle. The cause of the accident has been established as failure of Driver of UP Goods train and Controllers to observe prescribed rules and directions.

(c) Does not arise.

Growth in Passenger Kilometres and Net Tonne Kilometres

1070. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the growm in passenger kilometres and Net Tonne kilometres during the last five years;

(b) how far was the growth in route kilometres and track kilometres during the above period;

(c) whether this shows that rolling stock of Indian Railways and running track is overburdened and density has gone up; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is attached *{See* below).

(c) and (d) With the increase in traffic carried by the Railways, the utilisation of Railways' physical assets including track and rolling stock has improved considerably over the last few decades. Replacement and renewal as well as acquisition/construction of additional track and rolling stock is a need based exercise taking into account the age and condition of the assets, traffic requirements and the availability of resources.

Statement

The growth in passenger kilometres, Net tonne kilometres, Route kilometres and Running Track kilometres during the last five years is given below:

Item	1993-94	1998-99	Increase
Passenger Kms. (In millions)	296,245	403,884	36.33%
Net Tonne Kms. (In millions)	257,130	284,270	10.55%
Route Kms.	62,462 '	62,809	0.56%
Running Tracks Km.	79,188	81,512	2.93%

Speed of Trains

1071. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to increase the speed of trains;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the plans with regard to Konkan Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Efforts in the direction of increasing the speeds of trains and reducing the speed difference between the fastest & the slowest trains on Indian Railways is a continuous process. The following are some of the efforts being made in this direction:—

(i) Introduction of high speed locos, coaches and wagons.

(ii) Introduction of Air Brake Stock.